First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

http://33.media.tumblr.com/5c9c624280f22fc58a26293c770c91de/tumblr_inline_ned665FUkB1qkqzlv.jpg

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

November 1, 2015 10:00 am

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"God of Change and Glory"** **177 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Wayne Burling

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Wayne Burling

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Simple Gifts"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Wayne Burling

Creator of all life, you summon us to the mountaintop, here to feel your presence and respond to your Word. You invite us to lift up our heads and to see hear your teachings of light and life but we stubbornly refuse to acknowledge your work among us. Help us remember that Christ reaches through the stench of human actions to free us to worship in the Spirit, in Your Light and in Your Truth. Amen. – Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament	**Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9**	Wayne Burling
Hymn	**"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"**	**136 NCH**
Children's Time	*children are invited to come forward*	
New Testament	**John 11:32-44 & Mark 12:28-34**	Carol Hall
Sermon	**"The Observer"**	Carol Hall
***Hymn**	**"For The Healing of the Nations"**	**576 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our Father, our Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Carol Hall

As God wipes away our tears, we are called to be "tissue-bearers" to the world. When there is pain and suffering, the church has a healing mission. Where there are doubts and despair, we offer hope's embrace. Much of this ministry we offer personally, but our outreach is extended by these offerings we give. May this be a time of generous sharing! Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Wayne Burling

You set before us, Yahweh, a vision of a new heaven and a new earth, inviting us to share in its formation. May the love of Jesus be expressed to others by our sharing of our gifts. The offering of service and sacrifice is the high point of our worship. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

COMMUNING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

***Hymn of Blessing** **"Lord, You Are Welcome"** **31 SING**

Communion Service Carol Hall

Communion will be served by intinction in our chairs.
All are Welcome at the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving Carol Hall

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"** **403 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: The world awaits the good news you can bring.
Your sisters and brothers need your healing touch.

Many: Lift up your heads, and be lifted up.
We welcome the God who welcomes us.
We rejoice in the One who is making all things new.
Amen and Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website:* *www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Nov 1st	Next Sunday: Nov 8th
Usher	Jamie Goldsmith	Lyle Molter
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Wayne Burling	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Wayne Burling	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Kelsie Molter
Friendship Time	Anne Marie N-T	Eric Leavell / Wayne Burling

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO MEETING: November 1, 2015, immediately following the worship service, there will be a **Quarterly Meeting** of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Old business, information, reports and new business will be brought before the Congregation at that time. We will vote on accepting the following covenant of Open and Affirming.

Open and Affirming Covenant of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti. (proposed)

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.

All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.

We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held November 9, 2015 at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.
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Student Advocacy Center of Michigan.....Benefit Concert: **Concert 4 a Cause** is once again having an event to benefit the community -- this time for the **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan,** which has worked for 40 years to fight school dropout and push out of our most vulnerable students through advocacy, education support, academic mentoring and youth leadership opportunities.

Concert4aCause featuring:

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Bass String Quartet & Piano Shubert Trout Quintet & a Vaughan Williams Quintet

***Friday, November 20th - 8pm Northside Community Church - 929 Barton Drive, Ann* Arbor**

Celebrating the work of **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan**

Free and open to the public. Donations accepted at the door - 100% going to support the work of Student Advocacy Center.

WICIR TEEN GROUP Mural Unveiling: W.I.C.I.R. Youth Group would like to invite you to the unveiling of their mural in Ypsilanti. Saturday November 7th, 2015 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM 410 W. Michigan Ave. Ypsilanti, MI

*Parking lot behind Abe's Coney/Dos Hermanos grocery store entrance.

******** Event details ********

This mural was imagined in a collective design process. The youth spent the last year reflecting on their individual identity, the meaning of their group, how they are viewed in the community, and how they want to be portrayed in society.

Latin[x] youth in Washtenaw County struggle with issues related to discrimination, social isolation, and many struggle to cope with issues related to a broken immigration system.

Throughout this mural, there are various symbols that have helped WICIR Youth Group members communicate their feelings, past experiences, and current struggles. We partnered with a humble local artist named Alejandro Chinchilla who has been working with the youth in implementing the mural this past month.

We hope that you are able to attend this very special gathering and please feel free to distribute widely. Light refreshments will be provided at this public event.

WeROC's Public Meeting: Our church has a rare opportunity on Sunday afternoon, November 15 to make our presence known in the community -- in a very physical way -- with a nice contingent at WeROC's major Public Meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran across the river (201 N. River St). Our goal is 10 people...can we beat that?

With our spirited First Congregational section participating together with hundreds of our sisters and brothers from faith, labor, community organizations across the Washtenaw area, we magnify our ability to do God's work as a small congregation. And by helping WeROC fill the sanctuary with a broad range of people and organizations who are united around the basic shared value that "we're all in this together," we will directly contribute to achieving a rare thing in today's fragmented world…public officials and decision-makers committing in public to real changes that improve the lives of everyone in our area.

- Reducing school suspensions and breaking the school-to prison pipeline.
- Broadening the number of businesses in our area that offer employees earned sick time for themselves or to care for a family member, instead of losing a paycheck or their job.
- Expanding public transit options, locally and between Washtenaw and Detroit.
- Building on the very real public health consequences of our unacceptable level of incarceration, especially as communities of color have been affected.

Tying all of these issues together -- and the theme of the Public Meeting -- is the need, now more than ever, for all of us to work more powerfully together to dismantle the structures that preserve and expand racial and economic disparities right here in Washtenaw County.

Our flyer and more at www.werocmi.org. See or contact Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com) or Marty Kleino (mgkleino@gmail.com) to sign up for our church's contingent, or to ask questions. And help us spread the word -- our numbers mean everything with this kind of action meeting.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is now the same as always (734) 483-3849.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

Today's Cover Art

http://33.media.tumblr.com/5c9c624280f22fc58a26293c770c91de/tumblr_inline_ned665FUkB1qkqzlv.jpg
As of October 1, 2015, Tumblr hosts over 256 million blogs.[2] The company's headquarters is in New York City. Yahoo! announced its intention to acquire Tumblr on May 20, 2013, for approximately $1.1 billion.[6][7][8][9] The deal closed on June 20, 2013.[10]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tumblr
Image also found here: http://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/101491663505/remembering-the-saints-of-all-nations-at-the
Image also found here: http://bobkaylor.com/category/theology/